

## MINUTES OF MEETING

August 28, 2012

Mr. McLaughlin announced that an audio recording was being made of this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rob McLaughlin at 7:00 p.m. at the District offices located at 50 Elm Street, Dedham. Present were Jim Galvin, Ken Bragg, Steve Mammone, Robert Blume, Bob Eiben, Eileen Commene and John McCulloch. Mike Thornton, Steve Locke and Stephanie Costa were also in attendance.

### MINUTES

The approval of the minutes for the meeting of July 31, 2012 was deferred until the next meeting.

### FINANCIAL

Warrants and checks were signed.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### Easement Relocation – Weatherbee Estates

Ms. Commene presented the Weatherbee Estates Easement Relocation Agreement for the Board's consideration. Mr. McLaughlin noted that the signature designations were incorrect. Ms. Commene will make the corrections.

#### Customer Service Line Replacement – 397 Nahatan Street

Dominic DiVirgilio was present representing the owner of 397 Nahatan Street who has a leak in his service line. Mr. DiVirgilio asked if the Board would make an exception to their rule for K copper and allow this homeowner to use plastic. He explained that this was a long line and replacing it with copper would be a financial hardship for this homeowner. The cost for a copper line would be about \$25,000 to \$30,000 and plastic would be at least half the cost. Mr. DiVirgilio stated they were going to install a meter pit at the property line and would also put a metal tracer on the line so that it would be detectable above ground. Mr. Blume did not agree with using plastic in this area and felt copper was a longer lasting better product. Mr. Eiben stated the leak was found during the leak detection survey and felt the only negative about using copper was in a line this long couplings would have to be used every 60 feet which would present an additional chance for leaks at each one. Ms. Costa explained that if this were a 1" line she would recommend K copper line but this homeowner needs a 2" line for volume which makes a substantial difference. The Board agreed to allow the homeowner at 397 Nahatan Street, Westwood, to use plastic to replace their service line provided a meter pit is installed at the property line and a metal tracer wire is installed on the line.

**Easement Relocation – Weatherbee Estates**

The Board signed the Easement Relocation Agreement with John Federico for Lot 19 - Weatherbee Estates.

**Water Service Warranty Program**

Ken Guignardi, representing HomeServe, was present to discuss their water service warranty program for customer service lines. Mr. Guignardi had provided the Board copies of a sample letter to be sent to customers and a marketing agreement for their review. He also provided the new monthly price quote of \$4.49 a month which was requested at the last meeting. Mr. McLaughlin stated that with regard to the marketing agreement, he felt the Board was willing to work with HomeServe to offer their service to our customers but were not interested in entering into a contractual relationship with them. Mr. Guignardi explained that the reason for the agreement was because they would be using the District's logo on documents. Ms. Commane stated that in the past when HomeServe would do a mailing offering this service customers would call to question the legitimacy of the company which is what led us to explore these companies. Mr. Mammone thought this was something the Board looked into as a way to help customers change out their older meters. Mr. McLaughlin asked if Mr. Guignardi would consider having the Board send out a letter in our next mailing stating that the District looked at the company and negotiated the lowest price available. Mr. Guignardi will take this offer back to his company and continue to work with Ms. Commane.

**Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) Pilot Update**

Ms. Commane stated she had reported previously to the Board that there were four water systems in the state participating in a DEP Pilot Study on new water management regulations and what would happen in the next phase of permitting. A draft report has been received and comments are due some time in September. She explained that the general idea was that if we wanted to get a permit for additional water withdrawal in the Neponset Basin they would prefer that we first go to the MWRA for additional supply. Ms. Commane will have a draft summary and our response for the next meeting.

**UBS Billing System**

Mr. Thornton reported on a situation with the billing system and the significant problems that we have had over the last four years with Infinite. He explained that licensing and a maintenance contract were purchased from Infinite which was previously owned by American. The problems include technology issues, slow screens, poor training and lack of customer service. Mr. Thornton was concerned about going forward with our continued service with Infinite and would like to be independent of this company. He suggested having Jean Zakotnik attend a meeting to discuss the situation in greater detail and what options are available. The Board agreed to have Ms. Zakotnik come to a future meeting. Mr. McLaughlin asked that she also address the issue of monthly billing in her presentation.

**Schoolmaster Lane**

Ms. Commane stated that at the last meeting Mr. Eiben advised the Board of a request from a developer buying property on Schoolmaster Lane who was looking for some kind of partnership with the District for the 4,000 feet of pipe to service the property. The Board requested a

proposal be provided for their review which had been received and was up for the Board's consideration tonight. This pipeline is in the long term plan but is not a high priority project. The Board did not feel the proposal was acceptable and asked staff to prepare a counter proposal for their review at the next meeting.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **Pumpage Reports**

Mr. Eiben presented the pumpage reports for the periods ending August 5, 12, 19 and 26.

#### **Main & Service Leak Report**

Mr. Eiben reported there was one main break at East and Lamoine and three customer service line leaks.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Tufts Rebate**

Mr. Thornton stated that we had 90 days to make a determination on how to distribute the rebate check from Tufts. The Board agreed to issue a credit to employees in their paychecks.

#### **Blue Hill Drive**

Mr. Galvin questioned if this pipeline had ever been relocated. Mr. Eiben stated the pipeline had not been relocated yet but he had been talking to the owner who plans on starting to build the church in the spring. He stated that funds will need to be budgeted to move that pipeline.

#### **September Meetings**

The meetings for the month of September will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Galvin moved to adjourn at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Mr. Bragg. Voted unanimously.

DEDHAM-WESTWOOD WATER COMMISSION  
LIST OF DOCUMENTS  
August 28, 2012

1. July 31, 2012 Minutes
  
3. Easement Relocation Agreement Weatherbee Estates (Lot 19)  
HomeServe Marketing Agreement and sample customer letter
  
4. Pumpage reports for the periods ending August 5, 12, 19 & 26